

AN ORDINANCE

98236

AMENDING MULTIPLE SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 5 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO DEALING WITH VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES IN ORDER TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT RECENT CHANGES TO STATE LAW AND ADDING AN ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR THE OWNERS OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the City of San Antonio to require owners of dogs, cats and domestic ferrets to have their animals vaccinated against rabies in order to protect the public health; and

**WHEREAS**, recent changes to the state law on rabies vaccination have taken account of the use of vaccines which are effective for three year period changing the old requirement for annual vaccination to allow for the use of either type of vaccine; and

**WHEREAS**, City desires to match these changes in state law in the City Code; **NOW THEREFORE**:

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**Section 1.** The definitions of "Rabies Vaccination" and "Vaccination Certificate" in section 5-1 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio are amended to read as follows:

*"Rabies vaccination shall mean a protective inoculation by a licensed veterinarian with a rabies vaccine recognized and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, given in an amount sufficient to provide an immunity that satisfies the requirement of state law.*

*Vaccination certificate shall mean a document showing on its face that the animal described thereon has received a current inoculation of rabies vaccine in an amount sufficient to produce an immunity that satisfies the requirement of state law, inscribed with the date of the inoculation, the duration of immunity approved for that vaccine, the name and address of the animal's owner, all other information required by state law and signed by a licensed veterinarian."*

**Section 2.** Section 5-157 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended to read as follows:

*"The dog, cat or domestic ferret license will be valid for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of issuance unless revoked or unless it automatically expires due to the expiration of the pet's rabies vaccination certificate. The date of vaccination against rabies shall be the required date of purchase of the license from any veterinarian providing such service, or the Animal Care Services division of the health department, or any of the contracted issuers of such license. If the dog, cat or domestic ferret has been vaccinated against rabies during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, but does not have a current license from the city, the full license fee shall be required for the remaining partial vaccination certificate period. Regardless of the date of purchase of a dog, cat or domestic ferret license, it will expire the earlier of (1) one year from the date of issuance or (2) the expiration of the current rabies vaccination certificate."*

**Section 3.** Section 5-160(e) of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended to read as follows:

“(e) *Term.* If not revoked, dog, cat and domestic ferret licenses for the keeping of the pet shall be valid for a period of one (1) year, which will begin with the date of the animal's rabies vaccination.”

**Section 4.** Section 5-176 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended to read as follows:

“An owner of a dog, cat or domestic ferret must have the animal vaccinated against rabies in a manner that satisfies the requirements of state law.”

**Section 5.** Section 5-205(b) of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended to read as follows:

“(b) *Owner may redeem impounded animal.* The owner may redeem an impounded animal during normal business hours by paying the impoundment fee, boarding fees, and the pre-release rabies vaccination fee if required by law for the subject species and proof of valid current vaccination cannot be produced.”

**Section 6.** Section 5-151 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended in its first sentence to read as follows:

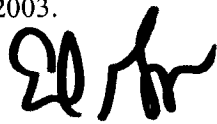
“An owner of an animal declared dangerous by the dangerous animal determination board or the administrative appeal hearing officer, must comply with all of the following (10) requirements before the subject animal can be released to the owner by the city veterinarian.”

**Section 7.** Section 5-151 of the City Code of the City of San Antonio is amended to read as follows by adding the following requirement at the end of the list of requirements contained therein:

“(10) The owner must allow an annual inspection of the residence where the animal is kept to ensure continued compliance with all requirements of this section. More frequent inspections may be conducted in response to specific complaints regarding non-compliance with this section.”

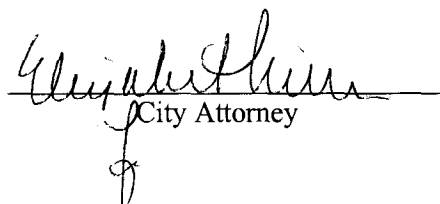
**Section 8.** This Ordinance will become effective on the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day after passage hereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

  
M A Y O R

EDWARD D. GARZA

ATTEST:   
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:   
City Attorney